Secretary of State for South Asia Ms. Christina Rocca visited New Delhi from 9—11 April 2002.

(b) and (c) She called on Minister of External Affairs and met the Special Envoy for Afghanistan and senior officials in the Ministry of External Affairs. The two sides undertook a review of the status of bilateral cooperation, including in the areas of counter-terrorism, security, defence, export controls, investment and trade, high technology commerce, energy and environment. The two sides also discussed regional developments, including the evolving political and security situation in Afghanistan.

(d) The discussions further strengthened India-U .S. engagement on a broad range of issues of mutual interest. The two sides agreed to establish a dialogue on political-military affairs as part of their growing cooperation in the areas of defence and security. They also agreed to continue their consultation and cooperation on Afghanistan.

Ignoring warnings on illegal flights

4575. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received various representations about illegal flights taking off from Delhi as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 23rd April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has ignored the action on various representations and warnings;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(d) whether the role of officials responsible for the act has been probed in this case and if so, with what results; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that such illegal flights do not take off from Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Ministry of External Affairs received a note verbale on 28th March, 2002 from the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan informing that some charter flight operator was trying to obtain an over-flight and landing permission using forged copies of their diplomatic notes verbal.

(b) to (d) On receipt of the above mentioned note verbale, the Ministry took up the matter immediately with the concerned authorities which resulted in apprehension of this illegal operation.

(e) Revised guidelines have since been issued by the Ministry for issuance of clearances for over-flights and landing of unscheduled flights.

Dialogue between India and U.S.A.

4576. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.S.A. have started a broad-based dialogue which would include Indo-Pak relations development in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the, outcome of the talks held and whether India and U.S.A. have agreed to reduce the tensions on borders between India and Pakistan and other neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, to what extent U.S.A. has agreed to help and assist in reducing the tension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) India and the United States have a broad-based dialogue architecture to discuss, besides bilateral relations, global, Asian and regional political, economic and security issues.

(b) and (c) The talks have deepened mutual understanding on these issues. Government pursues relations with India's neighbours on a bilateral basis and through SAARC, without involvement of any other country, including the United States.